

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159317
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159317

STADIS////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM LANDE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AF, EAID

SUBJECT: GOA REQUEST FOR FOOD AND FEED ASSISTANCE

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1. AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, THERE IS NOT GREAT ENTHUSIASM AT THIS END REGARDING GOA REQUEST FOR PL 480 WHEAT. THE REQUEST COMES LATE IN THE FISCAL YEAR, THE AFGHAN RECORD IN HANDLING PAST PL 480 SHIPMENTS IS POOR, AND THE MISSION'S CONCERNS ARE FULLY SHARED HERE.

2. AGRICULTURE ADVISES THAT IT WILL BE TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT AND SHIP 100,000 TONS BEFORE THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. IF AN AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED QUICKLY IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SHIP ONE OR TWO BOATLOADS (40-60,000 TONS) THIS FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER WE WOULD WANT THE WHEAT TO BE FOB NEW YORK.

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3. AID BY SEPTTEL IS REQUESTING CERTAIN TECHNICAL INFORMATION. IN ADDITION BEFORE WE START INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF FOLLOWING:

-- WOULD THE FOB NEW YORK PROVISION CAUSE A MAJOR PROBLEM?

-- WOULD ONE OR TWO BOATLOADS THIS YEAR BE WORTH THE

HASSLE?

--COULD AN AGREEMENT BE NEGOTIATED QUICKLY?

-- WHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TWENTY RATHER THAN FORTY YEAR TERMS? MANY OTHER POOR COUNTRIES (HAITI, FOR EXAMPLE) RECEIVE TWENTY YEAR TERMS. TRADITIONALLY, HOWEVER, SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES HAVE RECEIVED 40 YEAR TERMS.

-- IF WE DID NOT PROVIDE THE WHEAT WHERE ELSE MIGHT THEY GET IT?

-- IS THERE ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN OUR PROVISION OF WHEAT AND GOA WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING TRADE DISPUTES?

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE BY MONDAY, JULY 11 IN THIS CHANNEL. PLEASE SLUG IT STADIS.

5. WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO THE BEST WE CAN BUT THAT IT WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE ALL THE WAY. REGARDS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE, FEED
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE159317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770243-0987
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770776/aaaacnyb.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c89d8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1916680
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA REQUEST FOR FOOD AND FEED ASSISTANCE -
TAGS: EAID, AF
To: KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c89d8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009